



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

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#### **A Message from the Regional Director**

Welcome to the last issue of ABSTRACT for 2007.

More data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing was released on 25 October 2007. In a time of virtual full employment, knowing what we do, how and where we do it is very important. This latest release includes data on topics such as:

- how we travelled to work,
- where we worked,

- what our occupations were,
- how many hours we worked,
- our educational status, and
- where we lived one and five years prior to the Census.

Data from the Census will help government plan for the future labour force, and help businesses and other employing organisations to develop recruitment and retention strategies and enable employees to plan for future careers.

Census data are available free from the ABS website. More data will be released over time, as processing and analysis work continues. For example, a Working Population Profile will be released on 19 December 2007. If you have a need for information tailored to your specific requirements, we can provide you with customised solutions.

While continuing to deliver more new and exciting products and services from the 2006 Census, the ABS is also turning its attention to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. A range of topics have been suggested for inclusion in the 2011 Census, with other previously included topics under review. I encourage you to make submissions on topics of interest to the ACT and region.

An Information Paper, Census of Population and Housing: ABS Views on Content and Procedures, Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 2007.0) was released on 26 October 2007. Two public seminars were held in Canberra on 29 October 2007 to outline directions for the 2011 Census and explain the topic submission process.

On 29 November 2007 the ABS will be releasing Australian Capital Territory in Focus 2007 (cat. no. 1307.8). The publication will be launched by the ACT Chief Minister, Mr Jon Stanhope, and provides an analysis of important and interesting aspects of life in the ACT. It includes information on the environment, government, economy, people, education, labour market, business, housing, tourism, the Australian Capital Region and more.

The ABS is interested in developing a community of people interested in statistics. A "Community of Users and Producers of Statistics" (CUPS) has been formed to provide a forum for sharing information and for organising community networking and activities. I am keen to develop this network and would be happy to hear of opportunities to progress it within the Canberra community.

Finally, I would like to wish you a 'Merry Christmas' and 'A Happy New Year'!

Ms Karen Macdonald  
Regional Director  
karen.macdonald@abs.gov.au

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## **Census Time Capsule secured for 99 years!**

All 2006 Census respondents had the option to consent to have their name-identified Census information kept by the National Archives of Australia (NAA) for 99 years. If you answered 'yes' and signed the 2006 Census form then your Census information has been microfilmed and is being kept confidential by the NAA until its release in 2105.

At a media event held on September 13 at the National Archives of Australia in Canberra, the Australian Statistician Mr Brian Pink symbolically handed over the Census Time Capsule to the Director-General of the NAA Mr Ross Gibbs. The NAA are now the custodians of the

information.

At the event, Mr Pink stated 'Census information is invaluable to governments, business and community groups as it is a definitive source of information about the nation's most important resource, its people. Every day decisions are made using Census information to help plan for the future.'

A total of 11,256,886 people, or more than half the people recorded in last year's Census of Population and Housing, chose to have their name-identified Census information stored for 99 years. The participation rate increased by 3.4% to 56.1% from 2001.

As well as having the highest eCensus participation rate during the 2006 Census, the ACT also achieved the highest retention rate with 65.0% of Canberrans choosing to have their Census information retained by the National Archives.

Mr Pink also said 'according to genealogists and social historians, when the vault is opened it will give those researching their family history a far more detailed snapshot of how their descendents lived at the beginning of the twenty-first century.'

However, you do not need to wait 99 years to access the wealth of information collected in the 2006 Census, as there are a quarter of a billion data items already available for free on the ABS website.

Mr Pink stated that 'now that the transfer process is complete, the ABS has destroyed all its name-identified paper Census forms and will be destroying the computer records over the coming months. This is in line with long established practices and the confidentiality assurances given to the Australian public.'

Originally included on the 2001 Census Form for the Centenary of Federation project, the retention question will now be asked for each Census.

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## **Australian Capital Territory in Focus 2007 released today**

Australian Capital Territory in Focus 2007 (cat. no. 1307.8), is a flagship publication produced by the ACT Regional Office. Released on 29 November, it is a valuable reference tool for people who want facts about the ACT at their fingertips.

The publication provides a detailed statistical review of the social, demographic, environmental and economic characteristics of the ACT by drawing on a wide range of statistics compiled by the ABS and other organisations.

ACT in Focus provides an analysis of important and interesting aspects of life in the ACT. It includes information on the environment, government, economy, people, education, labour market, business, housing, tourism, the Australian Capital Region and more.

### **Some of the highlights include:**

- The population of the ACT increased by 4,000 (growth rate of 1.2%) to reach 334,200 people over the year to June 2006. The population of the Australian Capital Region at June 2006 was 552,600 people, with 69% (381,400) living in the Canberra-Queanbeyan area.
- At June 2006, the median age of the ACT population was 34.7 years, 2.2 years younger than the median age of Australia's population (36.9 years).
- ACT residents have a higher life expectancy at birth than residents of other

states and territories. A boy born in ACT in 2005 could expect to live to 79.9 years (78.5 years nationally) and a girl born in ACT to 84.0 years (83.3 years nationally).

- Drought conditions worsened in 2006 with below average rainfall for most months of the year. Total water consumption increased from 51,719 ML (134,020 water users) in 2004-05 to 54,340 ML (136,890 water users) in 2005-06.
- The ACT's apparent retention rate for full-time school students in 2006 of 89% was the highest of any state or territory and compares to the national retention rate of 75%.
- Total attendance at Floriade continues to grow with around 375,000 people attending in 2006 compared to 356,000 in 2005.
- Passenger boardings of ACTION buses increased by 688,000 (4.2%) in 2005-06 to reach 16.9 million passenger boardings.
- There were 224,000 motor vehicles registered in the ACT as at March 2006, an increase of 4,500 (2.1%) from March 2005.

**To order your copy of Australian Capital Territory in Focus 2007, please telephone 6252 8900, order on-line from the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)> or visit the ABS ACT Office at Level 5, 33-35 Ainslie Avenue Canberra City during office hours.**

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## **Also released today is Australian Capital Territory at a Glance, 2007**

This annual brochure has condensed information about the Australian Capital Territory compared with Australia:

population, births, deaths and marriages, education, health, welfare, earnings and income, labour force, prices, retail trade, building, agriculture, tourist accommodation, finance, manufacturing, transport and climate.

**Visit the ABS ACT Office and get a copy of Australian Capital Territory at a Glance 2007, FREE.**

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## **ABS to host NatStats Conference 08**

The National Statistical Service is an important initiative aimed at improving the quantity and quality of information made available to the community by government agencies. Its main objective is to link users and producers of statistics to ensure a better information base for all Australians.

The ABS is planning to host a conference, to be called NatStats Conference 08, in November 2008 to help connect users and producers of statistics from across government, private sector and academia to discuss strategies for measuring the progress of Australian society and improving national statistics. The broad theme for the conference will be "Working together for a better informed and performed Australian Society" and will provide delegates with a unique opportunity to be involved in the development and direction of Australia's National Statistics.

Preliminary planning is under way and the themes and topics for the conference are being considered. We are also interested in hearing your suggestions on topics for the conference program or perhaps you have an interesting or innovative case study which you would like to share with the statistical community. If you would like to share your ideas with us please email Mark Lound at [Mark.Lound@abs.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Lound@abs.gov.au) or phone (02) 6252 6325.

Details of the Conference will be included in future editions of ABSTRACT and posted on the NSS website <[www.nss.gov.au](http://www.nss.gov.au)>

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## **ABS goes PINK for 'Pink Ribbon Day'**

ABS House was covered in PINK for 'Pink Ribbon Day' on October 22. The Australian Statistician Brian Pink (second from right), generously offered to wear an article of PINK clothing and joined a large number of staff for the breakfast at Calypso Cafe.

The Final tally raised over the two weeks via the raffle, donations, merchandise sales and the breakfast itself was \$4,200.

Mr Pink thanked all staff, sponsors and the organising committee for creating a great awareness opportunity as well as funds for research into breast cancer.

Funds raised by events such as this across Australia are used to carry out research on various breast cancer projects. These projects assist with the development of new testing procedures for early detection of breast cancer, for improved therapy and treatment of cancer and research to find the causes of cancer and the eradication of this disease.

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## **New website to share information with the community**

Australia's National Statistical Service (NSS) represents the range of statistical services that are collectively provided for Australia. The primary aim of the NSS is to provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful picture of the economy, society and the environment to support the formulation and monitoring of policies and to inform Australian society.

A key strategy of the NSS is to develop a strong community of people interested in statistics. A "Community of Users and Producers of Statistics" (CUPS) has been formed to provide a forum for sharing information and for organising community networking and activities. CUPS is open to anyone with a statistical or a statistically-related role in Australian, State and local governments and the academic and business sectors.

The CUPS website <http://www.nss.gov.au/nss/CUPS> contains information on: training, recruitment and career development; statistical references; and links to conferences, seminars and workshops of interest to the Community. The CUPS website also links to relevant professional associations and information networks. As the community develops, interactive networking facilities may be added. If you would like to hear more about CUPS or if you have an event that you would like to share with the Community please email [inquiries@nss.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@nss.gov.au).

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## **CensusAtSchool 2008 begins!**

When CensusAtSchool was introduced into the Australian education sector in 2006, a total of 2,746 schools across Australia registered to participate, and 112,173 students completed the CensusAtSchool online questionnaire. Following a highly successful run, the project will be going live for the second time in January 2008.

CensusAtSchool aims to improve the statistical literacy of Australian students to assist them with informed decision making in the future. It also encourages teachers to feel more

comfortable using statistical learning tools in the classroom: "The ABS has an important role to play in increasing statistical literacy in the community, and one way we can do this is by assisting schools in teaching the importance of good quality statistical information", said Paul Taylor, Director, ABS Education Services.

CensusAtSchool is a free Internet based project appropriate for Years 5 to 12 students that requires students to collect real data about themselves by completing an online questionnaire. The questionnaire has been designed to personally involve students by posing questions about their everyday lives and relates to their experiences, opinions and interests. Typical questions are "What did you have for breakfast this morning?", "How do you spend your time on the internet?", and a range of topical-based questions regarding the environment and water.

Students access and complete an online questionnaire. The responses are stored in an Australian-wide database from which teachers and students can generate their own samples of raw, real data from the Random Sampler. Data is then used in student-led investigations and classroom activities. From July 2006, over 77,000 random samples of real, raw data about Australian school students have been generated.

CensusAtSchool forms part of a larger international project that has proved very popular overseas among countries such as the UK, Canada, and New Zealand. For the first time, all participating countries will include a set of common questions to allow comparisons with other countries. This will broaden the scope of the data and extend analysis possibilities for investigations.

Another new aspect of the 2008 project is the possibility of time series analysis and comparability with the 2006 data pool. It's all about making statistics interesting to students, as Mr Taylor points out: "We want students to look at statistics not just as dry figures but as a way to give access to very interesting and often intriguing information".

The Questionnaire phase will run from the 29 January to June 2008, after-which the Data Usage phase begins on 7 July 2008. Over the next few weeks, all Australian schools will receive an Information Pack outlining objectives of the project, as well as a registration form to get involved.

For further details contact Education Services on 1800 623 273 or email the CensusAtSchool team [censusatschool@abs.gov.au](mailto:censusatschool@abs.gov.au).

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## **New ABS organisational restructure to strengthen National Statistical Service**

The Australian Statistician Brian Pink, had put in place a new ABS organisational structure, effective 2 July, 2007.

There are now three major statistical groups, each headed by a Deputy Statistician. The three groups are:

Macroeconomics, Integration and Innovation Statistics; Population, Labour, Industry and Environment Statistics; and Social Statistics. It is envisaged that this structure will support strengthening of the National Statistical Service and continue delivery of a high quality responsive service to ABS clients.

**Further information on the new structure can be downloaded from the ABS website**

## 2006 Census Collection District Maps for sale

Full colour maps for each Census Collection District (CD) within Australia used by ABS collection staff during the 2006 Census of Population and Housing are now available.

For less than 20 CD maps just go to MapStats [www.abs.gov.au/census](http://www.abs.gov.au/census)

For more detailed CD maps in PDF format and exceeding 20 maps with details a charge applies, contact the **National Referral Service on 1300 135 070**.

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## SECOND RELEASE

### NEW STATISTICAL & DETAILS FROM THE 2006 CENSUS AVAILABLE NOW!

On 25 October 2007, the Australian Bureau of Statistics published the second release data from the 2006 Census.

Second release data builds on the already extensive range of census information available.

Differing from first release data (which provides statistics relating to age, gender, country of origin and household finance etc), second release data focuses on statistics relating to Australia's workforce, level of education, the way we travel to work and internal migration.

The second release information is available free of charge on the ABS website. The data is accessible through 2006 Census products such as QuickStats, Map-Stats, Census Tables and Community Profiles.

The availability of the new data enables researchers, analysts and the broader community, to gain a better understanding of Australians and how they live.

The information can assist businesses and governments to make informed decisions, allowing them to better target their offerings towards the desired segments of the community.

If you have any further enquiries regarding second release census data, please contact the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070. Alternatively, you can email [census.users@abs.gov.au](mailto:census.users@abs.gov.au) to keep up-to-date with the latest Census developments and releases.

## Workforce Analysis

Detailed occupation data is needed for analysing current and potential imbalances in the supply and demand for particular skills at the national, regional and local area levels. This information provides input to the development of policies and programs in the fields of education, training, immigration, industry and industrial relations. Occupation data is considerably more useful when analysed with detailed data on industry of employment and qualifications.

Because the census provides small area data, users can assess labour force changes for small population groups and within small geographic areas.

Labour force statistics can also be used to determine participation rates for small groups of the population such as Indigenous people, migrants from particular countries, detailed age groups, and so on.

## **Education in the ACT**

Information on whether a person is attending an educational institution has important uses for education and labour market planning. The census provides a wider range of information on the characteristics of students than is currently available from statistics derived from administrative sources.

This topic is considered to be of high importance to education planners at national, state and community levels.

Information on the relationship between education and labour market activities, particularly for young people and disadvantaged groups, is required by governments to monitor the impact of their policies and programs.

While much of this need is met by data from surveys, the census provides data for small areas and for small population groups which assists in the planning and delivery of relevant programs.

## **Internal Migration**

Statistics on usual residence one year ago and five years ago are used in the postcensal estimation of interstate migration, which in turn is used for calculating Estimated Resident Population (ERP). The census is the only source of this data.

Coupled with other census topics, the questions on usual residence provide information on characteristics of the migratory population as well as the non-migratory population. As internal migration is a major component of population change for many areas, this data is important in the calculation of population estimates and forecasts.

Information on the internal migration patterns of the population at national, state, regional and local government levels is also used in planning transport, health and educational services, and factors heavily in the release and development of land for residential and commercial purposes.

## **Getting to Work**

Information on the direction and distance of journeys to and from work is needed for transport planning and is used extensively in land use planning in the ACT.

Day time population figures are important when planning for facilities in employment centres. Journeys to and from work form the largest proportion of the total number of journeys and are concentrated in peak periods which place a critical load on transport systems.

Journey to work data is required by transport authorities for the analysis of travel patterns within the metropolitan area, the modelling of fuel usage, the forecasting of public transport patronage and the analysis of catchment areas for transport routes. This data also assists policy makers in the planning of transport systems, industrial development and the release of residential and industrial land.



## **Focus on the Regions**

One of the key objectives of the ABS is to better inform communities about the importance and usefulness of statistics.

Although the processing and compilation of data for the 2006 Census has been completed, the ABS is committed to disseminating this valuable information amongst governing bodies and the wider public, particularly in regional areas.

With this in mind, representatives from the ABS have been conducting information seminars in community centres, promoting 2006 Census data.

There was also a heavy emphasis on training people on how to use the ABS website and the freely available on-line services.

ABS representatives also gave numerous television and radio interviews on specific aspects of the 2006 Census.

Seminars were presented to various Government Agencies to assist them in making informed decisions in their operation.

In addition, library staff were shown the extent of data available on the ABS website, and the best methods of accessing it. This training allows them to pass information on to the general public.

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## **Discover your community online**

Data from the first and second releases of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing are available free on ABS website, [<www.abs.gov/census>](http://www.abs.gov/census) when you find it on-line. If you have a need for more customised data contact the National Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

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## **Planning for Business: Using statistics for business or franchise planning**

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN  
Mr Brian Pink

### **Information to assist your business planning**

Australians regularly provide the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) with information about their working life; how and where they live; family and family structures; what they spend their money on; and their hobbies or recreational activities. This wealth of information enables us to put together a picture of Australia.

If you are considering starting up, or you're already in a small or medium sized business, we have information to help you. This brochure provides some examples of how statistics can assist you in making informed business decisions.

### **Individual information is confidential**

As Australia's official statistical organisation, the ABS has statutory independence from the Government. We depend on the goodwill and cooperation of Australians, businesses and other organisations to provide information in response to our many data collections. All information provided to us is protected by confidentiality provisions. When we release statistics the law requires us to do so in a manner that is not likely to enable the

identification of a particular person or organisation.

### **Where to find ABS information**

Published information is available free of charge on our website. You can buy specific and more detailed information from our information consultancy service to meet your particular need. This service is priced to meet our costs in delivering information to you.

Contact us to discuss your needs and for help in accessing the information to best help you in planning your next business steps.

**To contact ABS Consultancy Services phone 1300 135 070, or email**

**[<client.services@abs.gov.au>](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)**

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## **The 2011 Census —Your chance to have a say**

The ABS is seeking views on its plans for the Census of Population and Housing to be held in 2011.

The invitation to have a say in the way the nation's largest statistical collection is undertaken is contained in the Information Paper: 2011 Census of Population and Housing: ABS Views on Content and Procedures(cat. no. 2007.0).The paper covers the type of questions that may be included on the Census form and the procedures to be used. It also explains ABS arrangements to protect the privacy of individuals and the confidentiality of the information supplied by them.

Users of Census data and interested members of the public are invited to make submissions on any aspect of the Census, using the Submission Form provided. Submissions can be lodged either on-line, by email, or in hardcopy. The Submission Form, as well as information and guidelines about making a submission, is available from [www.abs.gov.au/2011censusviews](http://www.abs.gov.au/2011censusviews). Submissions must be lodged by 31 March 2008.

During October and November 2007, the ABS will be conducting a series of public seminars in each capital city to outline directions for the 2011 Census and explain the submission process. Information about session times and locations in your state and territory is available from the information sessions page.

The views of users, along with advice from the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, will be used in preparing a submission to the Australian Government during 2009 on the nature and content of the 2011 Census.

**For further information please telephone 1300 175 070 or email**

**[2011.census@abs.gov.au](mailto:2011.census@abs.gov.au)**

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## **RECENT RELEASES**

### **Australian Social Trends**

Australian Social Trends, 2007 (cat. no. 4102.0) was released on 7 August. This publication presents information on contemporary social issues and areas of public policy concern.

This publication provides a snapshot of life in Australia and how it is changing over time.

## **Australia's families**

Australia's total fertility rate fell to a historic low (1.73 babies per woman) in 2001. Since then Australia's total fertility rate has increased, reaching 1.81 babies per woman in 2005 – the highest level recorded since 1995. Women aged 30 years and over and living in more advantaged areas are driving this increase.

The probability of marrying has declined. If current rates were to continue, 31% of men and 26% of women would never marry. At the same time, the probability of marriages ending in divorce has increased. One-third (33%) of marriages which took place in 2000–02 could be expected to end in divorce, compared to 28% of marriages in 1985–87.

In 2004–06 one in five children (20%) were in one-parent families. These families are at a higher risk of disadvantage. In 2003–04 almost half (49%) of one-parent families with children under 15 had both low income and low wealth, compared with 11% of couple families with children of the same age.

## **Work and family in Australia**

The increased proportion of women working since the 1990s has contributed to increases in Australia's labour force participation rate, up from 74% in 1990 to 76% in 2005 for people aged 15–64 years. Australia's labour force participation rates were above the OECD average (70%) and similar to the U.S. (75%) and the U.K. (76%) for 2005.

The Australian labour force participation rate for women of child-bearing age (15–44 years) rose from 59% to 71% between 1980 and 2005. One type of support to help mothers combine paid work and family is access to leave. In 2005, female employees using leave (either paid or unpaid) for the birth and care of their baby used an average of 34 weeks of leave in total. For those using paid leave, the average length of this leave was 12 weeks. Just over one-in-four female employees (27%) did not use any leave for the birth and care of their baby with most of this group permanently leaving their jobs.

The latest figures (2004–05) show that around 7.4 million Australian adults (54%) were overweight or obese. This was an increase of more than 2 million adults from 1995. The proportion of adults who were obese (up from 13% in 1995 to 18% in 2004–05) increased at a greater rate than the proportion of adults who were overweight (up from 33% in 1995 to 36% in 2004–05).

In 2004–05, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were over three times as likely as non-Indigenous people to have diabetes and more than ten times as likely to have kidney disease.

## **Australia's household income and consumption**

Goods and services generally became more affordable between 1985–86 and 2005–06. This is because per person increases in household disposable income (up 5.1% per year between 1985–86 and 2005–06) and household net worth (up 6.6% per year between June 1989 and June 2006) both increased faster than all groups consumer price inflation (3.7% per year between 1985–86 and 2005–06). While many goods and services have become more affordable – including motor vehicles, clothing and footwear and household appliances – others, such as education and hospital and medical services, have become less affordable because price rises for these services have outpaced increases in income and wealth.

As our household income has increased so has household spending. Since 1985–86, real

(i.e. adjusted for inflation) household final consumption expenditure per person has increased on average by 2% each year (from \$17,500 in 1985–86 to \$26,100 in 2005–06). The largest increases have been on communication services and goods for recreation and culture. Spending on cigarettes and tobacco has fallen.

The amount of solid waste generated in Australia rose by 6% a year between 1996–97 and 2002–03 (excluding Tasmania and the Northern Territory). The amount of solid waste that was re-used or recycled rose almost ten-fold between 1996–97 and 2002–03.

**For more details get a copy of Australian Social Trends, 2007 (cat. no. 4102.0) or visit ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>**

### **Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Australian Capital Territory, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.8.55.001)**

This first issue to be released on 9 January 2008 presents summary results for the Australian Capital Territory from the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS). The ALLS collected information on: literacy skills; general demographic characteristics; linguistic information; parental information; labour force activities; literacy and numeracy practices; participation in education and training; social capital and well being; information and communications technology; and, household composition and income. This product provides an overview of the relationships between literacy skills and selected characteristics for different population groups and over time.

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### **New study paper on Internet access in Australia**

In recent years there has been a strong policy focus as well as community interest on Internet access and its use in Australia. Policy makers are increasingly focussing on the economic and social impacts arising from adoption and use of information and communication technology. People with less opportunity to access the Internet are believed to be disadvantaged socially and economically.

A new paper by the ABS 'Patterns of internet access in Australia' 2006 (Cat. no. 8146.0.55.001) examines the spatial distribution of the Internet. In particular it looks at broadband access by households and the influence of socio-demographic characteristics such as household income; family and household characteristics; education level; occupation; labour force and Indigenous status. The relationship of these variables to Internet and broadband access are also explored using regression modelling and where possible, comparisons are made with 2001 Census and other related survey data.

This paper released on 29 November 2007 is available on ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>

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### **Children and Youth Statistical Portal (CYSP)**

The Children and Youth Statistical Portal (CYSP) was released on 8 October 2007. The CYSP is the initial pilot project for the National Data Network (NDN), providing an online service that improves access to a range of children and youth information resources from a single location. The CYSP is accessible from <http://portals.nationaldatanetwork.org/childrenandyouth>, and includes catalogue entries containing discovery metadata and a web link to each information resource. A Discussion Forum is also available which provides a publicly available space where users of children and youth statistics can discuss relevant

issues.

As part of the Pilot Phase of the NDN (which runs till 30 June 2008) a selection of contributing national and state agencies and organisations are being provided Lite node software to enable them to load their own catalogue entries. Along with the ABS, other agencies who have contributed to the Portal include Medicare, the Australian Drug Foundation, Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Institute of Criminology, the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

A brief has been developed to provide information along with links to supporting documentation, and is available through the Portal's Knowledge Base.

Agencies interested in more information about the Portal are encouraged to contact Lorraine Cornehlis via email <lorraine.cornehls@abs.gov.au> or by phone on (02) 6252 6079. If you would like more information about the NDN in general please call Patricia O'Reilly from the NDN Business Office via email <patricia.oreilly@abs.gov.au> or by phone on (02) 6252 5875.

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## **Expected Major Annual & Irregular Releases**

### **1220.0.55.002**

Unpaid Work Variables, 2006 (December)

### **1301.0**

Year Book Australia, 2008 ( January)

### **1329.0**

Australian Wine and Grape Industry, 2007 (January)

### **1379.0.55.002**

National Regional Profile - Data Cubes, 2002-2006 (February)

### **2006.0**

Census of Population and Housing: Working Population Profile, 2006 (December)

### **2030.0**

Complete Set of Social Atlases, 2006 (February)

### **2064.0**

CDATA Online, August 2001 (February)

### **3201.0**

Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories, June 2007 (December)

### **3228.0.55.001**

Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2007 (February)

### **4146.0**

Improving Statistics on Older Persons: An Information Development Plan, 2007 (December)

### **4150.0**

Time Use Survey: User Guide, 2006 (December)

**4153.0**

How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (December)

**4211.0**

Education and Training Matters, December 2007 (December)

**4221.0**

Schools, Australia, 2007 (February)

**4228.8.55.001**

Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Australia Capital Territory, 2006 ( January)

**4229.0**

Adult Learning, Australia, 2006 to 2007 (January)

**4232.0**

Information Paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: Concepts and Directions in Early Childhood Learning, 2007 ( December)

**4234.0.55.001**

Information Paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: A Profile of Participation and Outcomes, June 2006 (March)

**4513.0**

Criminal Courts, Australia, 2007 (January)

**4517.0**

Prisoners in Australia, 2007 (December)

**4613.0**

Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends, 2007 ( December)

**5678.0**

Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity, Australia, 2006-07 ( February)

**6225.0**

Information Paper: Persons in Their Own Business, Experimental Estimates for Small Areas, 1996-97 to 2003-04 (January)

**6227.0**

Education and Work, Australia (December)

**6238.0**

Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia, July 2006 to June 2007 (December)

**6239.0**

Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia, July 2006 to June 2007 (December)

**6281.0**

Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia, April 2007 (December)

**6285.0**

Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity, Australia, April 2007 (December)

**7111.0**

Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary, 2006-07 (December)

**8127.0**

Characteristics of Small Business, Australia, 2005 (December)

**8129.0**

Business Use of Information Technology, 2005-06 ( December)

**8146.0**

Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2006-07 (December)

**8167.0**

Selected Characteristics of Australian Business, 2005-06 (January)

**8221.0**

Manufacturing Industry, Australia, 2005-06 (December)

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## **STATISTICAL TRAINING COURSES AVAILABLE IN CANBERRA 2008**

Each ABS office offers practical, informative and relevant training to help you develop your statistical skills. These courses may also be tailored to suit your needs or additional programs can be developed as required. The ABS is pleased to offer the following courses in Canberra in 2008:

### **Analysing Survey Data Made Simple**

#### **Overview**

This two-day computer-based course develops practical skills in basic statistical and graphical data analysis techniques using Microsoft Excel. It aims to equip participants with the skills to:

- identify the steps involved in data analysis;
- summarise and display survey data in graphical and tabular form;
- find simple relationships in survey data; and
- test for statistically significant differences between survey results.

#### **Is this course for me?**

This course is designed for people with limited training and exposure to statistical analysis who need to learn how to analyse and describe data that have been collected in surveys. A mathematical background is beneficial but not essential. Previous experience using spreadsheets is recommended.

#### **Dates**

- 3 - 4 March 2008
- 28 – 29 May 2008
- 7 – 8 August 2008
- 20 – 21 October 2008

#### **Cost**

\$750 (inc. GST) per person

## Basic Survey Design

### Overview

This two-day course aims to provide a grounding in all facets of sample survey development. Topics include developing survey objectives, advantages and disadvantages of various collection methodologies, questionnaire design, data processing and reporting of results. Participants will learn how to:

- formulate survey objectives and prepare project briefs;
  - identify issues associated with survey management and design;
  - identify appropriate survey techniques for data collection; and
  - understand the overall survey process.
- Note that this course does not cover questionnaire design in any depth. Please see Principles of Questionnaire Design instead.

### Is this course for me?

This course would be useful for anyone who conducts their own surveys, or who needs a broad understanding of the issues associated with the survey process.

### Dates

- 19 – 20 June 2008

### Cost

\$750 (inc. GST) per person

## Making Quality Informed Decisions

### Overview

*Need to introduce some quality into your statistical decision making?* This one-day course introduces the concept of 'holistic quality' through the use of a data quality framework. The framework ensures that users of statistics are able to assess whether the statistics are fit for their intended use. This course will provide participants with an increased understanding of:

- how to set up a quality framework;
- risk management in making statistical decisions;
- how to assess datasets in the context of data need; and
- using information on data quality to make better informed decisions.

### Is this course for me?

This course would be useful for anyone who uses statistics in decision making, or is involved in producing statistics and wants to ensure that statistics are used appropriately.

### Dates

- 15 March 2008
- 17 July 2008
- 29 October 2008



**Cost**

\$450 (inc. GST) per person

**Principles of Questionnaire Design****Overview**

This two-day course aims to enable participants to understand and apply the basic techniques used in developing a survey questionnaire. The course will include facilitated exercises to give participants an understanding of how to design and evaluate a questionnaire. The course content covers:

- defining survey objectives;
- developing content based on survey objectives;
- developing survey questions;
- developing instructions to accompany questions;
- arranging questions in a logical and orderly way;
- testing the questionnaire; and
- questionnaire layout.

**Is this course for me?**

This course would be useful for anyone who needs to design a questionnaire that will collect information accurately and concisely.

**Dates**

- 7 – 8 May 2008
- 23 – 24 September 2008

**Cost**

\$750 (inc. GST) per person

**Turning Data Into Information****Overview**

This two-day course is intended to provide skills in interpreting, communicating and displaying data clearly and effectively. Participants will gain skills in transforming data into meaningful written information, particularly in respect to social policy issues. At the completion of this course participants will be able to:

- understand how the collection and compilation of data affects their usefulness, quality and relevance;
- communicate results and prepare written reports;
- construct good tables and graphs; and
- recognise possible pitfalls in analysis.

**Is this course for me?**

This course will be most beneficial to people who need to use data to produce reports or

social commentary, or people who are involved with monitoring and evaluation in a social context.

## Dates

- 21 – 22 February 2008
- 14 – 15 May 2008
- 12 – 13 August 2008
- 17 – 18 November 2008

## Cost

\$750 (inc. GST) per person

## Further Information

For more information about course content, available dates for these courses in other capital cities around Australia, or details of how we may be able to tailor or offer a course to meet your specific needs:

Ph: 02) 6252 8900

E-mail: [training@abs.gov.au](mailto:training@abs.gov.au)

Or visit [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) under 'Services we provide' then 'ABS Training', for further information about external training with ABS.

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## CANBERRA 2008 COURSE REGISTRATION FORM

Please tick below the course(s) you wish to attend.

### Analysing Survey Data Made Simple

☐ 3 – 4 March 2008  
☐ 28 – 29 May 2008  
☐ 7 – 8 August 2008  
☐ 20 – 21 October 2008

### Basic Survey Design

☐ 19 – 20 June 2008

### Making Quality Informed Decisions

☐ 15 March 2008  
☐ 17 July 2008  
☐ 29 October 2008

### Turning Data Into Information

☐ 21 – 22 February 2008  
☐ 14 – 15 May 2008  
☐ 12 – 13 August 2008  
☐ 17 – 18 November 2008

### Principles of Questionnaire Design

☐ 7 – 8 May 2008

q 23 – 24 September 2008

**Name:** .....  
..

**Department/Organisation:** .....  
.

**Section/Branch:** .....  
.

**Postal Address:** .....  
.

**Phone:** ..... **Fax:** .....  
.

**E-mail:** .....  
...

**Please send invoice to:** Participant (details above) Other (Please provide details below)

.....  
...  
.....  
...

### **Payment Details**

All course attendance will be invoiced upon completion of the nominated course. Costs include all course materials, a light lunch as well as morning and afternoon teas.

1 day course \$450 (inc. GST)

2 day course \$750 (inc. GST)

**Cancellations**, in writing, will be accepted 5 working days prior to the course. After this a cancellation fee of 50% of the course fee will be charged. Non-attendance without written notification of cancellation will result in the full fee being charged. Substitutions are allowed at any time.

**REGISTER TODAY by returning this completed form to:**

### **Post:**

#### **External Training Coordinator**

Client, Statistical & Other Services

Australian Bureau of Statistics

PO Box 181

Civic Square ACT 2608

### **Fax:**

(02) 6247 2389

### **E-mail:**

training@abs.gov.au

### **Phone:**

(02) 6252 8900 for further information

\* Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of your registration form. If you have not received confirmation of enrolment within 2 working days, please call 02) 6252 8900.

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## About this Release

ABSTRACT - Statistical News: Australian Capital Territory provides new and relevant information about survey developments, information and training sessions, user consultations, major changes to the statistical program, state/territory data releases and significant ABS data releases.

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